

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-41 are pending. Claims 1, 26, and 41 are amended. The amendments are supported in the specification of the application as filed, for example at page 15, lines 19-24 and page 16, lines 1-5. No new matter has been added.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A promotional device for effecting operation of a specific gaming application on a wager-based gaming machine, when the specific gaming application is available for play on the wager-based gaming machine, that is in communication with the promotional device, the promotional device configured to store ~~having associated therewith~~ 1) indicia of credit applicable only to the specific gaming application, 2) information used to identify a specific player to which operation of the specific gaming application and application of the indicia of credit is limited and 3) information used to identify the specific gaming application wherein the promotional device is configured to enable: 1) an identity of the specific player to be authenticated and 2) an availability of the specific gaming application to be determined prior to the indicia of credit being used on the wager-based gaming machine for ~~only the~~ only the specific gaming application.
2. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 further comprising visual elements on the promotional device representing the specific gaming application.
3. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein the promotional device is a printed ticket and wherein the indicia of credit is associated with a bar code on the printed ticket.
4. (Original) The promotional device of claim 3 wherein the bar code also identifies the specific gaming application.
5. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein the promotional device is a card having magnetic information stored therein which includes the credit.

6. (Original) The promotional device of claim 5 wherein the magnetic information also identifies the specific gaming application.
7. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein the promotional device is a card having a memory embedded therein which stores information corresponding to the credit.
8. (Original) The promotional device of claim 7 wherein the information identifies the specific gaming application.
9. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein the gaming machine is part of a gaming network that includes a remote storage device, at least part of the credit being stored in the remote storage device.
10. (Original) The promotional device of claim 9 wherein the promotional device identifies the specific player and the part of the credit stored in the remote storage device that is associated with the specific player.
11. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein information including the specific gaming application, specific player, and indicia of credit associated with the promotional device is stored in at least one database, and wherein the at least one database is accessible with player identification information stored on the promotional device.
12. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein the promotional device is configured to be inserted into the gaming machine to facilitate communication with the gaming machine.
13. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 wherein the promotional device further comprises a wireless transmitter for communicating with the gaming machine.
14. (Original) The promotional device of claim 1 further configured to identify a gaming venue in which the promotional device may be employed.
15. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine, comprising:
circuitry for receiving data from a promotional device; and

wherein the data includes player identification information for a specific player associated with the promotional device,

wherein the data further includes or is used to access an indicia of credit associated with the promotional device and information about a specific gaming application wherein the indicia of credit is applicable only to the specific gaming application device wherein the promotional device is configured to enable: 1) an identity of the specific player to be authenticated and 2) an availability of the specific gaming application to be determined prior to the indicia of credit being used on the gaming machine for only the specific gaming application; and

a processor configured to:

generate play of a wager-based game;

determine whether the specific gaming application is available for play on the gaming machine and

authenticate the specific player associated with the promotional device; and

when the specific gaming application is available and the specific player is authenticated, indicate that the indicia of credit is available to be used for play of the specific gaming application.

16. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 15, wherein the processor is further configured to enable operation of the specific gaming application in accordance with the credit if the specific gaming application is available for play on the gaming machine and if the identity of the specific player is authenticated.

17. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 15, wherein the processor is configured to authenticate the specific player by determining whether the player identification information associated with the promotional device is consistent with a secondary form of player identification presented to the gaming machine.

18. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 17, wherein the secondary form of player identification presented to the gaming machine is a player tracking card, biometric information, a PIN number, a driver's license, a smart card, a credit card, a wireless device, or a combination thereof.

19. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 17, wherein the indicia of credit associated with the promotional device and information about the specific gaming application on the gaming machine to which the promotional device and the credit is limited is stored in a first database, and wherein information associated with the secondary form of player identification is stored in a second database.
20. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein the first database and the second database are the same.
21. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 19, wherein the player identification information stored in the first database is accessible using information from the promotional device, and wherein the information associated with the secondary form of player identification stored in the second database is accessible using information from the secondary form of player identification.
22. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine of claim 21, wherein the first database and second database are accessible using a player tracking account number.
23. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein the gaming machine is part of a gaming network which includes a remote storage device, at least part of the credit being stored in the remote storage device.
24. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 15 wherein the circuitry comprises one of a magnetic card reader, a bar code reader, and a wireless receiver.
25. (Original) The gaming machine of claim 15, wherein the player identification information is a player tracking account number.
26. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a wager-based gaming machine, comprising:
communicating with a promotional device having associated credit,
wherein the promotional device is associated with a specific player, and
wherein the promotional device data includes or is used to access credit applicable to only a specific gaming application; and

prior to enabling operation of the specific gaming application on the wager-based gaming machine and applying the credit toward the specific gaming application:

authenticating the specific player associated with the promotional device;

determining whether the specific gaming application is available for play on the gaming machine and

when the specific gaming application is available and the specific player is authenticated, indicating that the indicia of credit is available to be used for play of the specific gaming application.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising enabling operation of the specific gaming application on the gaming machine and applying the credit toward the specific gaming application if the specific player is authenticated and if the specific gaming application is available for play on the gaming machine.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising when the specific gaming application is available on the gaming machine, refusing to apply the credit toward the specific gaming application if the specific player is not authenticated.

29. (Original) The method of claim 26, further comprising disabling operation of the specific gaming application on the gaming machine and refusing to apply the credit toward the specific gaming application if the specific gaming application is not associated with the gaming machine.

30. (Original) The method of claim 26, wherein authenticating the specific player includes determining that player identification information associated with the promotional device matches a secondary form of player identification presented to the gaming machine.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the secondary form of player identification is a player tracking card, biometric information, a PIN number, a driver's license, a smart card, a credit card, a wireless device, or a combination thereof.

32. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein the player identification information is stored in a first database, and wherein information associated with the secondary form of player identification is stored in a second database.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the first database and the second database are the same.

34. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the player identification information stored in the first database is accessible using information from the promotional device, and wherein the information associated with the secondary form of player identification stored in the second database is accessible using information from the secondary form of player identification.

35. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the gaming machine is part of a gaming network having at least one gaming server associated therewith, and wherein enabling operation of the specific gaming application comprises employing objects associated with the specific gaming application distributed among the gaming machine and the at least one gaming server.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the network is one of a local area network and a wide area network.

37. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein communicating with the promotional device comprises receiving the promotional device in a receptacle associated with the gaming machine.

38. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein communicating with the promotional device comprises receiving a wireless transmission from the promotional device.

39. (Original) The method of claim 26 further comprising identifying at least one gaming venue in which the promotional device may be employed.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39 wherein the at least one gaming venue comprises multiple related gaming venues.

41. (Currently Amended) A promotional device for effecting operation of a specific gaming application on a gaming site via the Internet, when the specific gaming application is available for play on the gaming site, the promotional device ~~having associated therewith~~ configured to store 1) indicia of credit applicable only to the specific gaming application, 2) information used to identify ~~and a specific player to which operation of the specific gaming application and~~

application of the credit is limited and 3) information used to identify the specific gaming application.